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C&I 200.03: Exploring Teaching Through Field Experience

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The University of Montana

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C & I 200: Exploring Teaching Through Field Experience

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Office: Education 310
Phone 243-5415

Office hours: MW 8:00-8:30, 10:00-11:00

(Other times by arrangement.)

Course Description:

This course combines field experience with a seminar. We focus on the realities and expectations of teaching and teachers. The course is intended for students exploring teaching as a profession.

Course purpose:

This course functions as an introduction to the teacher education program at UM, and to the teaching profession in general. In this introductory field experience students will have opportunities to observe and reflect on the business of school environments. Specific observational strategies will be presented during seminar sessions. Observations will focus on:

- School and classroom culture
- Curriculum and instructional strategies
- Integration of technology
- Diversity and inclusion issues
- Assessment
- Classroom management

The field experience is designed to provide practical applications for the theoretical perspectives presented in C&I 303 (Educational Psychology), and C&I 410 (Exceptionality and Classroom Management). We recommend that C&I 200 be taken concurrently with C&I 303 and C&I 410.

Required Texts and Materials

- *University of Montana Teacher Education Policy Handbook*
- Large 3 ring binder with dividers for professional development portfolio
- Reed, A. & Bergemann, V. (2001). *A guide to observation, participation, and reflection in the classroom*. (4th ed.) New York: McGraw-Hill.

Course Requirements and Learning Outcomes

1. Complete at least 30 hours of field experiences with satisfactory evaluation by cooperating teacher.
2. Participate in six required seminars and activities.

3. Complete required observation guides and self-evaluation.
4. Show evidence of thoughtful reflection on classroom experiences and educational issues.
5. Initiate the development of a professional portfolio.

You will keep a journal of your experience, writing for 2-5 minutes before the session to focus your thoughts gather your attention and then again for 10 or 20 minutes as soon after each experience in the school as possible. This will help you consolidate your thoughts and emotions. These journal jottings will also serve as the raw material for the short essays (see below) you will turn in at each of our meetings.

For our purposes, plan to compose and revise one short (<500 words) reflective essay per meeting (we only have five more after today). These essays will examine and explore some facet of your observation experience through the lenses of one or more of our 6 focus areas. Possible format structures might include a brief narrative summary of some observational experience (derived from your observation records) followed by an exploration of what those experiences reveal about teaching, and ending with some possible applications for you as future teaching. (In other words: what did you see? What does it mean? How can you use it?)

Additionally, read through your observation handbook, bring questions to class, and feel free to use any or all of the templates to structure your observation and journal activities. (Some of these seem more relevant/useful depending on your particular placement, so surf through and make your own choices...) I only REQUIRE that you complete **form 14** (the mapping activity and attendant anecdotal components). Turn this in during any of our meeting times (in addition to the aforementioned essays) for a total of six assignments during the semester. These will only be evaluated as pass/no pass. Plan to complete all of these tasks.

Schedule:

Meeting 1: Week of 27 January
Meeting 2: Week of 3 February
Meeting 3: Week of 25 February
Meeting 4: Week of 31 March
Meeting 5: Week of 14 April
Meeting 6: Week of 28 April

Plan to have all your observation hours completed before meeting six. Have ALL of your paperwork (see the green packet for details) completed and ready to turn in at the end of meeting six. Plan to attend ALL six seminars. Do all this and plan to pass.